

fame plugging their gigs at local clubs, while their music received airtime on WDIA. With WDIA's emergence, the broadcasting landscape for Amcan-Americans changed forever.

Established in 1957, the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc., also known as The Recording Academy, is an organization of musicians, producers, engineers and recording professionals that is dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the Grammy Awards, The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs.

**SALUTE TO HURRICANE
VOLUNTEER MICHAEL RAMSEY**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the states along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank one man, his store and his donation. Michael Ramsey, the Vice President of Christian Community Action participated in the Albertsons Food Relief Donation during hurricane Katrina.

Since 1973, Christian Community Action has provided spiritual and physical assistance to communities and families in need. CCA is a grass-roots nonprofit organization that provides food, clothing, housing and vital personal services to destitute families throughout North Texas. From the headquarters in Old Town Lewisville, CCA assists more than 15,000 people every year.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Michael Ramsey for his donation. It is people like him that I am proud to call a fellow Texan. Through his contribution, he not only stands as a devoted and giving American citizen, but he serves as an inspiration to others.

**HONORING DR. MARIA GUAJARDO
LUCERO**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Maria Guajardo Lucero. As we recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, we acknowledge the immeasurable contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to enrich our culture and inform our values. The wealth of literature, film, art, music, and cuisine is evident throughout America, but even more so in my part of the country, the West. Core Latino values—hard work, faith, family, and love of country—are values we all respect and admire.

The West is largely a story written in Spanish and Hispanic peoples. Whether as conquerors, founders or new immigrants, Hispanic people have shaped the country.

So it was for Maria Guajardo Lucero, whose parents came to this country with six young children hoping to make good on the "American Dream." Her mother had a second grade education and her father never went to school. As she has said, "Between both of my parents they have never read a book." Yet they were wise in setting very high expectations for their daughter. They expected academic excellence because they knew that an education was her best opportunity to have a better life. Maria understood this at a very young age. She says, "I determined to make growing up easier for other children."

Maria set high goals for herself and she reached them.

She graduated with honors from Harvard University and earned her Masters and PhD from the University of Denver. In addition, she is also a graduate of the Kennedy School of Government Programs for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Dr. Guajardo Lucero is now the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Education and Children in Denver, where she oversees programs that include early childhood education (Head Start) to post-secondary education.

I had the opportunity to work with her recently on the "Education to Elevate Colorado's Economy" (E3) Summit. She is as articulate on the subject of student preparedness as anyone I have ever heard. She points out that children in classrooms today are not only competing with children from other schools in America, but also with children on a global scale. Children today need to be prepared to compete with students from China, Russia, India, and around the world. If the United States is to retain its strength in the world, we must be prepared to compete in the global marketplace, and that means in the marketplace of ideas—the marketplace of excellence.

Dr. Guajardo Lucero insists that we hold all students to the same high academic standards, regardless of their race or socio-economic status. I agree with her when she says that we should ensure that each student graduates high school and is prepared to enter college after graduation. Rationalizing that we should expect less from those who have less does an unconscionable disservice to our underserved populations. It also runs contrary to the instincts of any parent who naturally perceives boundless potential for their own child, so how can we hope for anything less for other children?

If anyone can illustrate this in real life it is Dr. Maria Guajardo Lucero.

I also want to note that Dr. Guajardo Lucero is a graduate of the Colorado Outward Bound School. She participated and graduated in this program when I was the head of this school, and at a time when I was trying to bring Outward Bound's leadership program to a more diverse population. While I signed her graduation certificate, I did not lead her course, but I am reliably informed by those who knew her at the time that she is a courageous rock climber.

Nothing speaks more to our collective ideals than our investment in public education. The foundation of American society is based on the principle that each of us ought to have the opportunity to achieve our full potential. Dr.

Maria Guajardo Lucero serves as an example of this ideal in practice. Whether one is fortunate enough to share in her Latino heritage or not, it is an ideal every American can appreciate.

**A TRIBUTE TO DR. ATUL B.
CHOKSHI**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Atul B. Chokshi, a member of the Brooklyn community and a distinguished member of the healthcare profession. It is an honor to represent Dr. Chokshi in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader in American Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, on Dr. Atul B. Chokshi's resume he states that his life's goals are to "be as complete a cardiologist as possible" and "to be as nice and loving a human being as possible." To the thousands of people of the Interfaith Medical Center community who have been touched by Dr. Chokshi's gentleness and caring nature, he has already met his life's goals.

Born and trained in India, with an 18-month stint in England, Dr. Chokshi has been with Interfaith Medical Center for nearly his entire medical career. Joining one of Interfaith Medical Center's predecessor hospitals, Jewish Hospital and Medical Center of Brooklyn, or "Brooklyn Jewish" in the summer of 1978 as an Intern in Internal Medicine. Dr. Chokshi has served in a variety of positions leading up to his being named the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

As head of Interfaith Medical Center's Cardiac Cath Lab since 1993, Dr. Chokshi has pioneered thoughtful and gentle cardiology care. In November 2004, Dr. Chokshi launched the City's first Walk-in-Walk-Out transradial cardiac catheterization program. Virtually painless and allowing the patient to go home to resume normal activity within an hour, Interfaith Medical Center's Walk-in-Walk-Out service involves inserting the catheter into the radial artery at the wrist for complete cardiac evaluation and even a peripheral angiogram can be done at the same time without the use of the femoral artery.

In addition to being a brilliant physician, Dr. Chokshi is an ardent student of the Bhagawad Gita, which inspired him to combine his devotion to the teachings of Lord Krishna with his cardiology expertise to help establish The Krishna Heart Institute in Ahmedabad, India. Since its opening in 2000, The Krishna Heart Institute has performed more than 4000 open heart surgeries and 25,000 other life-saving procedures.

Dr. Chokshi is married to Dr. Vandana Chokshi, a radiologist with a subspecialty in Nuclear Medicine and Chief of both Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at Interfaith Medical Center. Drs. Atul and Vandana Chokshi have a daughter, Krishna.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments and selfless service of Dr. Chokshi as he offers his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.